

Comments on WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164

Submitted on Behalf of the Riveredge Bird Club

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should adopt measures to reduce migratory bird collisions with communications towers.

The scientific literature clearly documents that sufficient numbers of migratory birds collide with communications towers causing mortality that has contributed and will contribute further in the future to the long-term decline in population size for certain bird species. While it is impossible to determine the exact impact of this source of mortality to any particular species of migratory bird, we do know that approximately 30-40% of the species that migrate into and through Wisconsin are exhibiting long-term population declines. Tower collision mortality can not be ignored when these population declines are assessed.

There are siting procedures, construction techniques, and lighting protocols that, if implemented, will reduce this significant bird mortality. The Riveredge Bird Club requests that the FCC take strong actions to reduce this mortality. We request that these actions involve regulations implementing lighting regimes at existing and future towers that will lessen the attractiveness of the lights to birds and also to implement regulations to limit tower height when possible, to reduce the use of guy wires whenever possible, and to more carefully consider tower siting as a way to reduce this bird mortality.

Thank you.

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